



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-02-66

PSC STAFF SEEKS TO OPEN CASE ON DISASTER/ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Jefferson City (October 26, 2001)---The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission has filed a motion with the Missouri Public Service Commission seeking to open a case to receive information from Missouri utilities regarding their preparedness for disaster and emergency situations.

"In light of the disaster in New York City and Washington on September 11, 2001, we believe now is a very good time to review Company preparedness in case of a disaster or emergency," stated Wess Henderson, Director of the PSC's Utility Operations Division. "The Commission did something very similar to this when we worked with utility companies preparing for Y2K. That was a very informative exercise then and we believe this one will be much the same," stated Henderson.

The PSC Staff intends to survey the utilities concerning their plans to deal with disaster and emergency situations including: 1) employee training, emergency drills, coordination with and reporting to local, state and federal agencies; 2) procedures for dealing with terrorist threats or with actual attacks on employees or facilities, including computer systems and remote facilities and hazardous materials protection and handling.

"If the PSC Staff finds, through its survey, that immediate actions are required," stated Henderson, "Staff will report that to the Commission with suggestions that such action be taken without delay."

A formal report regarding progress of the investigation will be filed with the Commission on or before December 31, 2001.

"The PSC Staff has coordinated with utility companies regarding emergency response for many years and utilities have reported emergencies to Staff," stated Henderson. "Opening an investigation will help assure the public, the Commission and the Staff that utility companies are taking or have already taken steps to plan for and respond to a variety of emergency situations."

A questionnaire will be sent to all utility companies asking that it be completed and returned to the PSC Staff by December 1, 2001.

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